Claim Amendments

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) An oropharyngeal device for maintaining a patient airway without requiring endotracheal intubation, a laryngeal mask or a cuffed airway, wherein the device is adapted for insertion through the mouth of a patient and with one end into the pharynx of a patient above and spaced from the epiglottis of the patient, and which allows an administering anesthesiologist to be distant from the patient during use, comprising:

a. a body having a distal end and a proximal end, the body sized such that when the distal end of the body is inserted into the mouth of the patient until the proximal end is disposed outside and adjacent to the patient's mouth, wherein in a fully deployed state the distal end is disposed within the pharynx above the epiglottis and at a distance from the epiglottis;

b. at least one channel forming at least one airway in the device body extending between the proximal end and the distal end of the device body, wherein the channel ~~have~~ has a proximal end and a distal end and the channel being sized to comprise connection means whereby, when in a fully deployed state, the distal end is disposed within the pharynx above the epiglottis and at a distance from the epiglottis;

c. at least one first conduit in the device body for conveying an inhalant gas to the patient, that extends from the proximal end to the distal end of the device body, and said at least one first conduit including connection means at a proximal end of the device for providing inhalant gas, with the at least one first conduit having a proximal end and a distal end, wherein the at least one first conduit, in its fully deployed state with connection means at its proximal end, has its distal end disposed within the pharynx above the epiglottis and at a distance from the epiglottis;

d. at least one second conduit for suctioning that extends from the proximal end to the distal end of the device body and said at least one second conduit including connection means at a proximal end of the device for suction, wherein the at least one second conduit ~~having~~ has a proximal end and a distal

end, wherein the at least one second conduit in its fully deployed state, with connection means at its proximal end, has its distal end disposed within the pharynx above the epiglottis and at a distance from the epiglottis;

e. at least one third conduit for sampling gas exhaled by the patient that extends from the proximal end of the device body and terminates at a position in the channel, and said at least one third conduit including connection means at a proximal end of the device for withdrawing sampling gas, wherein the at least one third conduit ~~having~~ has a proximal end and a distal end, and with the at least one third conduit in its fully deployed state, with connection means at its proximal end, has its distal end disposed above the epiglottis and at a distance from the epiglottis;

f. whereby the sizing of the device and its channel and conduits to terminate above the epiglottis and at a distance from the epiglottis avoids manipulation of the larynx and subglottic structures during use; and

g. wherein the first, second and third conduits comprise connection means whereby administration of inhalent gas, suctioning and the sampling of gas exhaled by the patient may take place simultaneously through separate conduits.

Claim 2 (original) The oropharyngeal device according to claim 1 wherein the at least one first, second, and third conduits is disposed within the device body.

Claim 3 (original) The oropharyngeal device according to claim 1 wherein the at least one first, second, and third conduits are independently disposed within the at least one channel.

Claim 4 (original) The oropharyngeal device according to claim 1 wherein the at least one first, second, and third conduits are independently disposed partly within the device body and partly within the at least one channel.

Claim 5 (original) The oropharyngeal device according to claim 1 wherein the third conduit terminates at a position within the channel corresponding to the mouth of the patient.

Claim 6 (original) The oropharyngeal device according to claim 1 wherein the device body has a length from its proximal end to its distal end and the at least one third conduit terminates within the channel at a location within the two-thirds of the device body length closest to the proximal end of the device body.

Claim 7 (original) The oropharyngeal device according to claim 1 wherein the at least one channel has a U-shaped cross section.

Claim 8 (original) The oropharyngeal device according to claim 1 wherein the at least one channel has a closed cross section.

Claim 9 (original) The oropharyngeal device according to claim 1 wherein the device is rigid and functions as a bite block.

Claim 10 (original) The oropharyngeal device according to claim 1 wherein the first, second, and third conduits each independently have an inside diameter between 2mm and 5mm.

Claim 11 (cancelled).

Claim 12 (original) The oropharyngeal device according to claim 1 further comprising at least one flexible extension conduit coupled to at least one of the first, second, and third conduits at the proximal end of the device body.

Claim 13 (original) The oropharyngeal device according to claim 1 further comprising a flange at the proximal end of the device for preventing the proximal end of the device body from entering the mouth.

Claim 14 (original) The oropharyngeal device according to claim 1 further comprising at least one right-angled connector coupled to at least one of the first, second, and third conduits at the proximal end of the device wherein the right-angled connector bends at a right angle with respect to a surface of the device body at its proximal end.

Claim 15 (original) The oropharyngeal device according to claim 6 wherein the at least one channel has a closed cross section, the at least one first conduit is disposed within the device body, and the at least one second conduit is disposed within the device body.

Claim 16 (original) A method for establishing and maintaining an airway comprising the steps of:

a. inserting the device according to claim 1 into the mouth of the patient until the proximal end is outside of an adjacent to the patient's mouth;

b. connecting at least one inhalant gas source to the at least one first conduit;

c. connecting at least one suctioning device to the at least one second conduit; and

d. connecting at least one gas sampling device to the at least one third conduit.